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### Studio Art Senior Thesis: From Classroom to Quarantine

Clark University, V&PA

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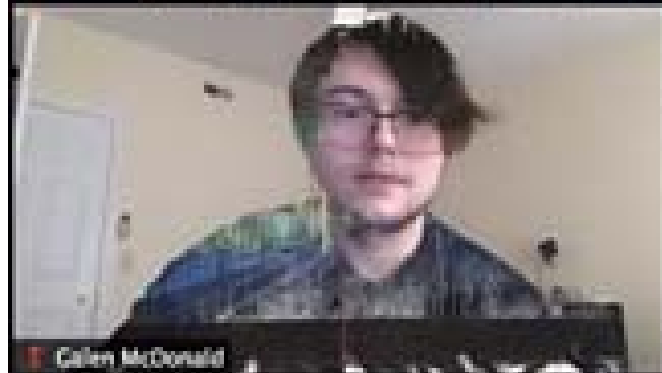
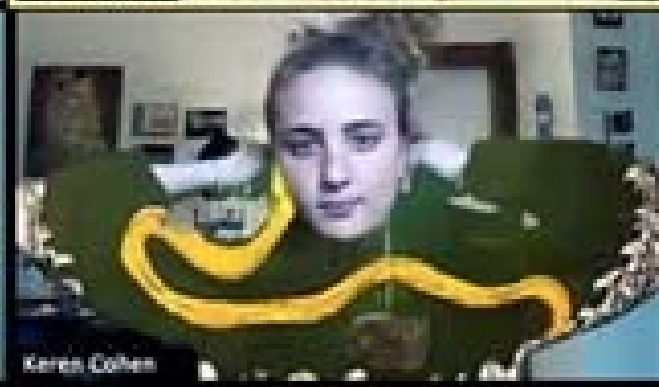
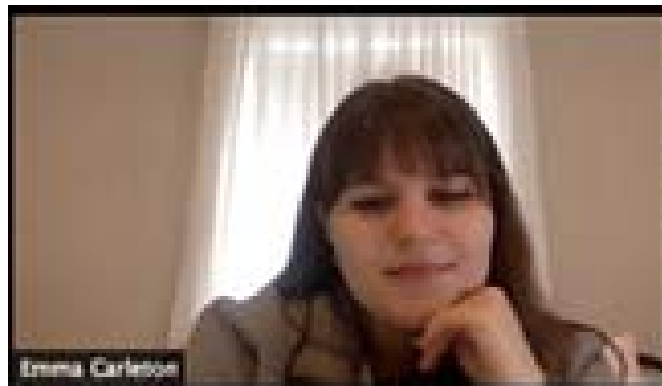
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# FROM CLASSROOM TO QUARANTINE

CLARK UNIVERSITY  
2020 SENIOR THESIS EXHIBITION

Emma Carleton, Keren Cohen, Lillian Favreau, Madelaine Hamilton,  
Galen McDonald, Xuemeng Zhang

Professor Elli Crocker



# Portrait, Place, and Pattern

Studio Art Senior Thesis

Spring 2020

Emma Carleton



When looking back on the past, do we remember all the minute things that have sparked a smile? Our memories, like paintings, reminding us of times that have swiftly come and gone. The interwoven relationship between these mundane little moments and the distinct thoughts behind them creates this act of reminiscing; every stroke of paint holds this fleeting feeling. Each work is a portrait, whether it be a person or place, laced together by the ties of my love for them, my memory and emotion.



Shortcake, 2020  
Water Soluble Oils and  
Acrylic on Canvas  
20"x 20"



Details of *Shortcake*, 2020





Mother Mary, 2020 Water  
Soluble Oils on Canvas, 20"  
x16"



Detail of *Mother Mary*, 2020





Madonna and Child, 2019  
Water Soluble Oils and Acrylic on Canvas  
20" x 24"



Detail of *Madonna and Child*, 2019



Becoming a Matriarch, 2020  
Water Soluble Oils and Acrylic on Canvas  
20"x 24"





Detail of *Becoming a Matriarch*,  
2020



The Cabot:  
Home of Le  
Grand David,  
2020  
*Flashe* Vinyl  
Color and  
Acrylic Paint on  
repurposed  
Ikea framed  
wall print.  
55 ¼" x 39 ¼"



Detail of *The Cabot: Home of  
Le Grand David*, 2020





# Studio Art Senior Thesis

## *The Dream Collection*

Keren Cohen

# Artist Statement

Bits and pieces of hazy imagery  
Constantly slipping away by the second,  
Reaching for the journal on my nightstand.  
Scribbling, writing, drawing  
The unconscious experience.

Dreams unlock layers into another dimension of the soul  
When nothing makes sense,  
The innermost feelings, fantasies, and dilemmas are exposed.

Overwhelmed by the meaning of these stories and adventures  
I expressively paint my jumbled emotions  
Trying desperately to get back in to reveal my truths  
They become all consuming,  
Swallowing.



## STOP MOTION VIDEO OF INSTALLATION





















# Wallpaper Portraiture

Spring 2020

Lillian Favreau

# Artist Statement

For this series, I was considering the history of portraiture and exploring connections between identity and personhood and the associations between family and home. From the framed family photo to the design of the rocking chair and painted china plates, what elements define domestic spaces? In my home, it was the wallpaper. The bright colors, the swirl of the floral patterning, I grew up in a house filled with art that I hadn't considered. In honor of this, I render portraits of my family members as wallpaper swatches, which I achieved through the creation and use of repetitive tile patterning.

I created two compositions centered around my sister and my father and the ways that they exist in my memory. After completing the two pieces, I became interested in expanding this connection between memory and wallpaper. I wanted to further explore its impersonal quality and the associations and expectations of its decorative role in the home. For my third and fourth pieces, I wanted to create an all-encompassing pattern that references my family's shared history. At the same time, I was also considering the styles and design of wallpaper throughout Western history. As a reference to family history and the origins of wallpaper itself, my last pieces are rendered in the style of "toile de Jouy", a popular patterning for textiles that originated in France during the 18th century.



*Papa*, colored pencil on paper, 30x22 inches.





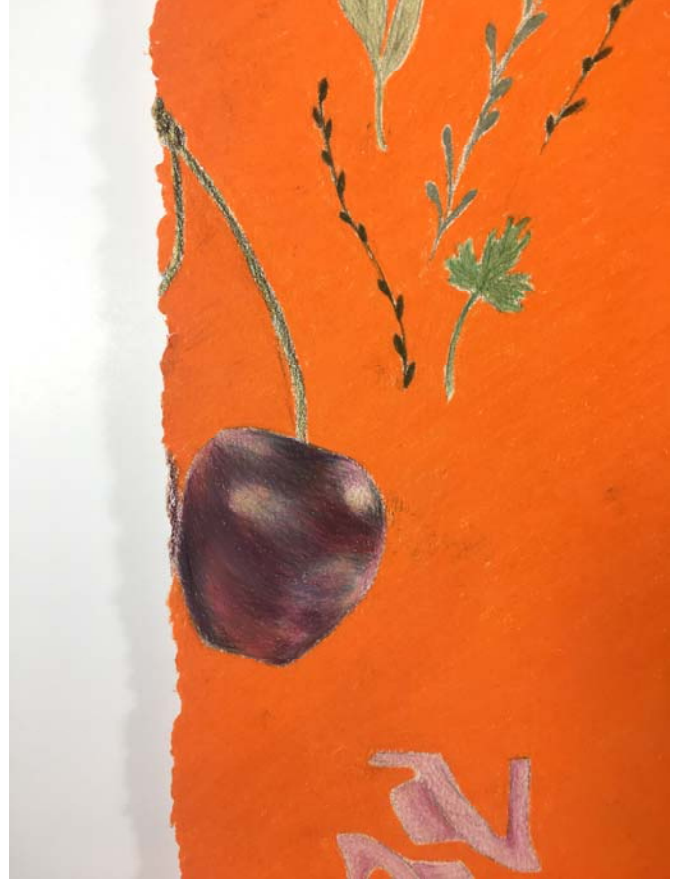


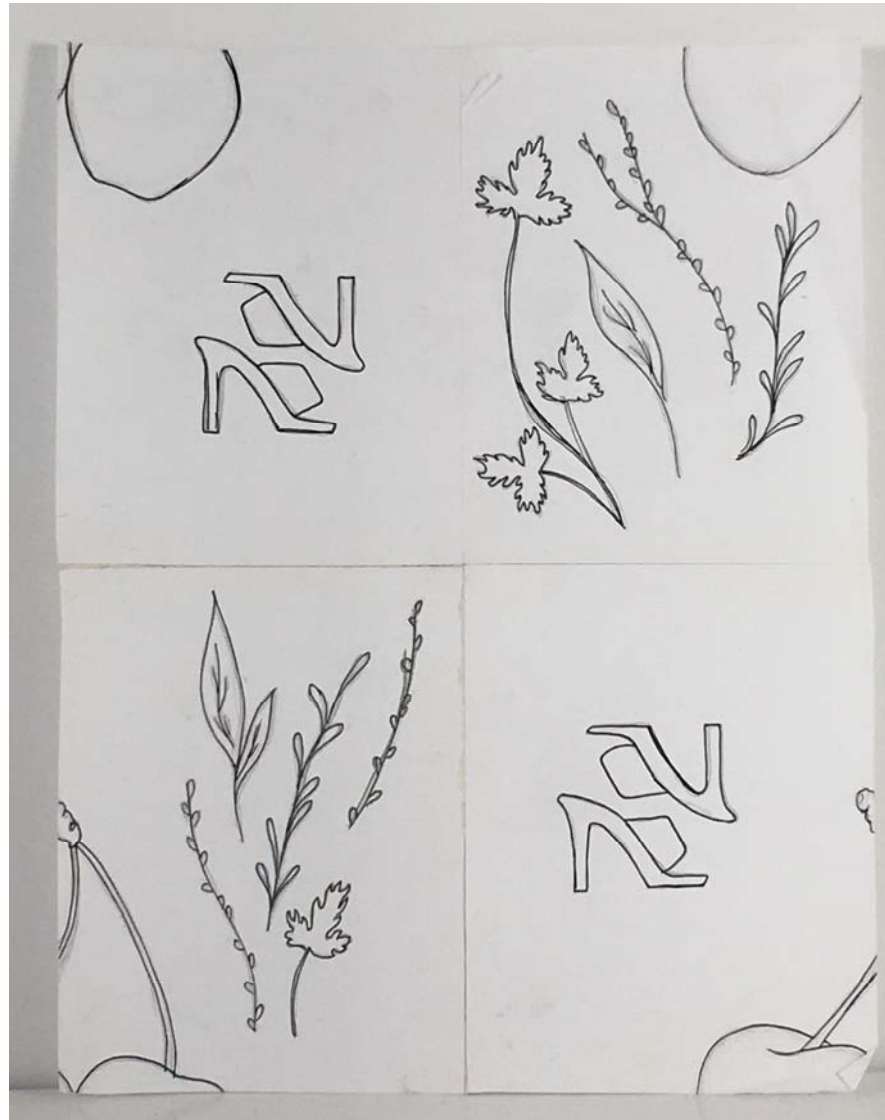
*Papa* pattern tile





*Eva*, colored pencil on paper, 30x22 inches.





*Eva* pattern tile



*Toile at 22 (red)*, colored pencil on paper, 30x22 inches.





*Toile at 22 (blue)*, colored pencil on paper, 30x22 inches.





*Toile at 22*  
pattern tile





*Toile at 22*  
pattern tile



# *Ray of Light*

Madelaine Hamilton  
Spring 2020



*Greta*, oil on canvas paper,  
9" x 12"

## *Ray of Light*

Light doesn't need a medium through which to travel no matter the source or the direction from where it shines. The speed of light is a universal physical constant.



## Artist Statement

The effects of visible light waves can be felt even in those who are blind. The speed of light, 299,792,458 meters per second, is the same no matter where you are in the universe. Whether you are on Earth or in the empty vacuum of outer space, the speed of light is a universal physical constant.

The presence of light affects our brain activity and the physical world in numerous ways unrelated to sight.

The sun in our solar system provides energy used by all living things. The stars reflect light waves that have traveled billions of light-years to illuminate our night sky. For hundreds of generations, the glowing solid particles in flames have given us warmth and shelter.

The human body itself emits a characteristic spectrum of light waves, called black-body radiation.

We are children of light.

Light is an indispensable source of meaning for our human capacity for justice, empathy, and compassion. During a time of inexorable darkness and uncertainty, I explore this idea of light and our common humanity through portraits of my classmates and other individuals.



*Lillian*, oil on canvas, 14" x 14"

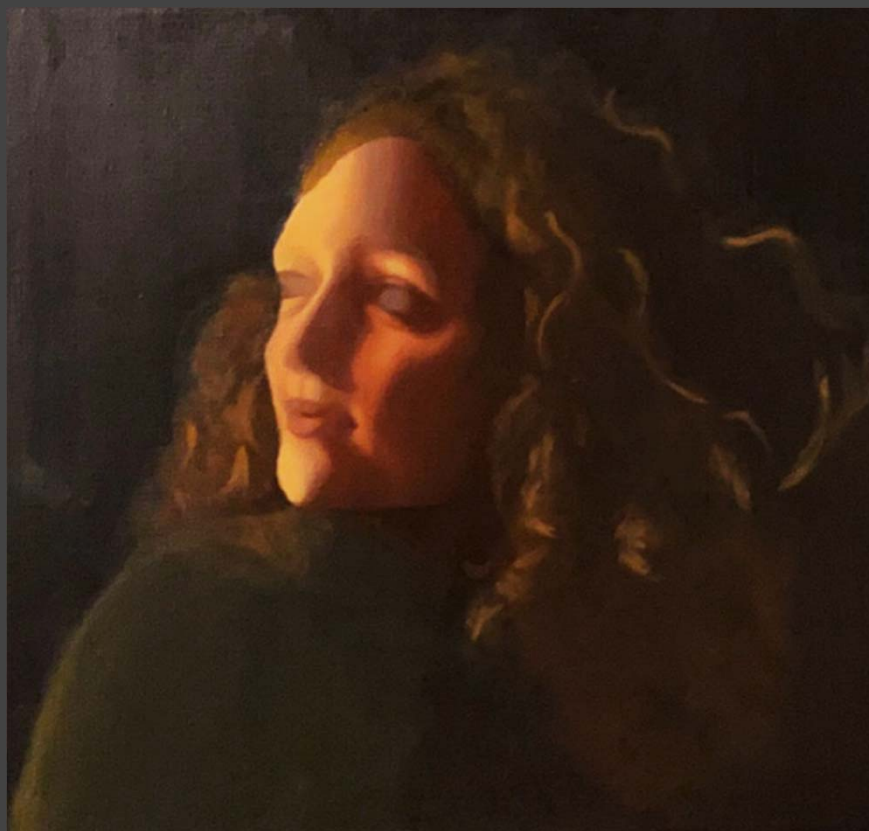




*Emma*, oil on canvas, 14" x 14"



*Xuemeng*, oil on canvas, 14" x 14"

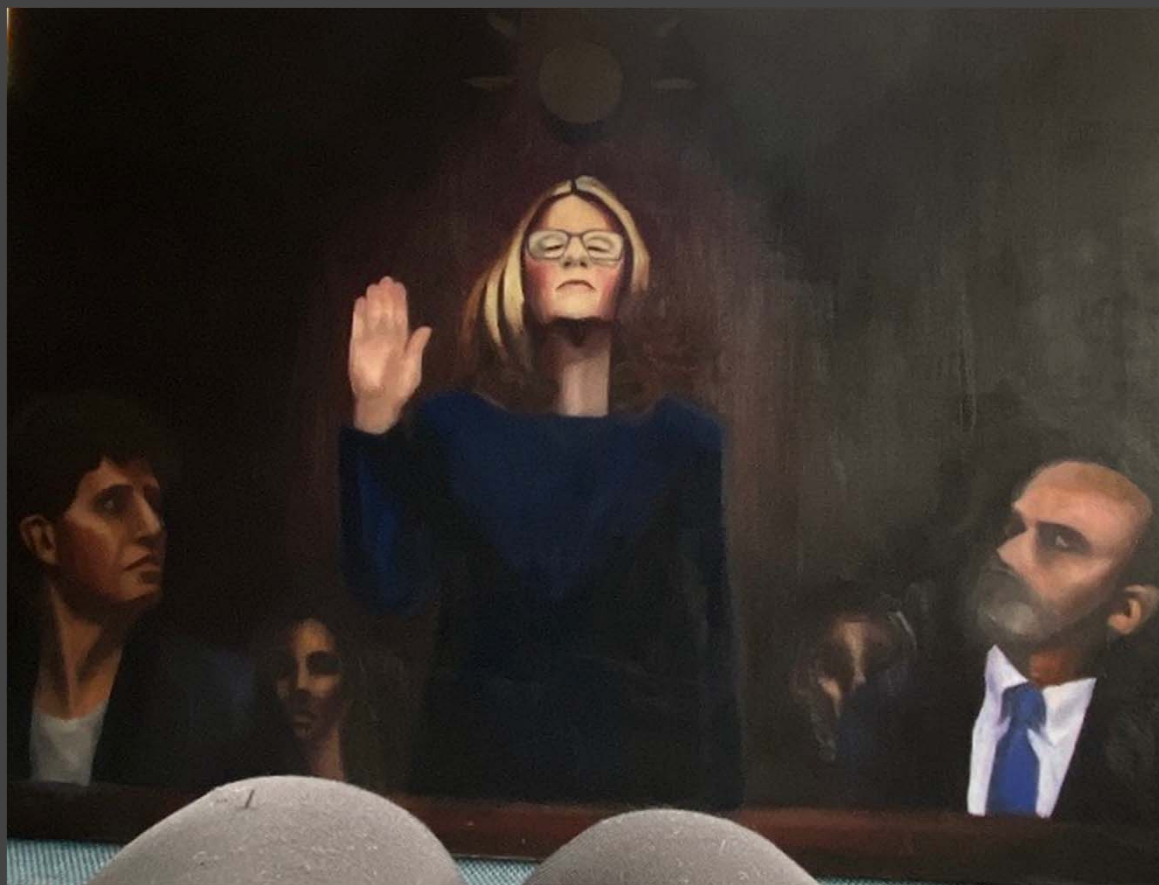


*Karen*, oil on canvas, 14" x 14"

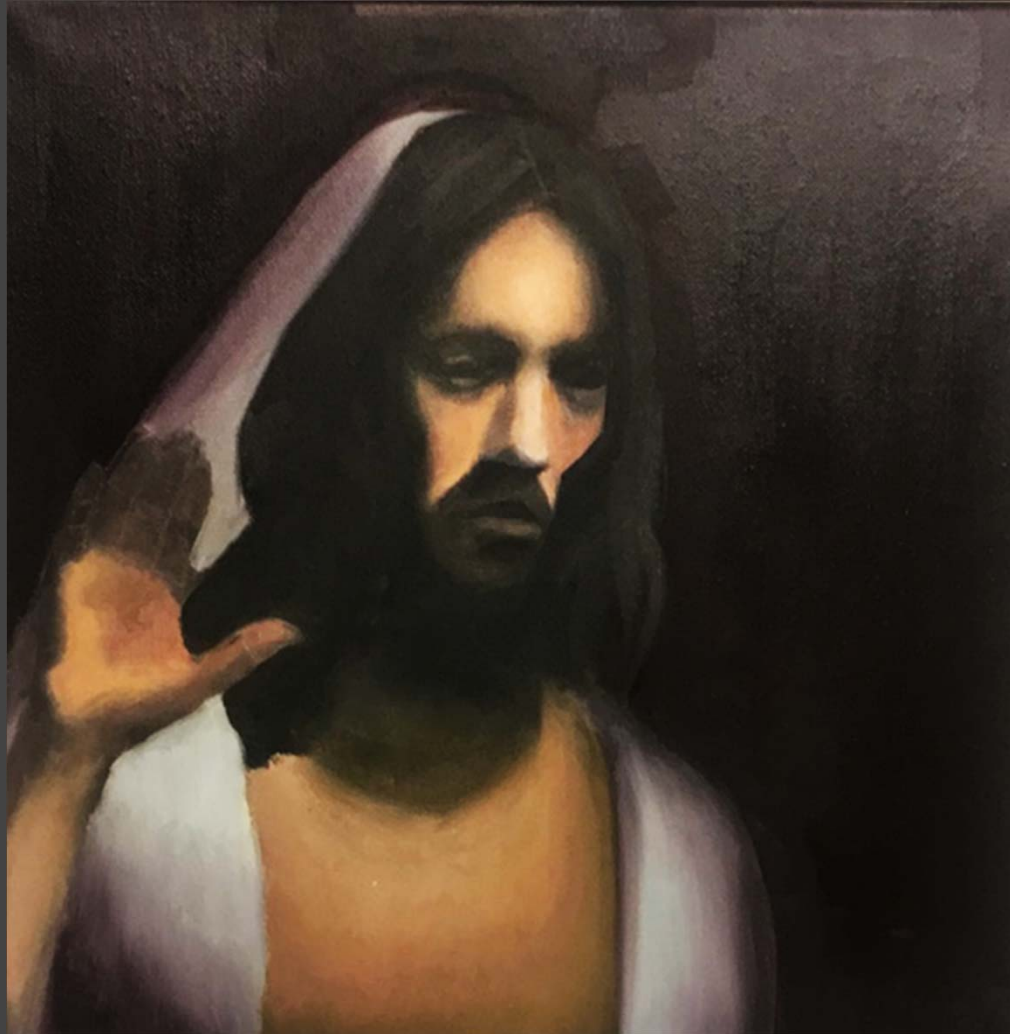




*Galen*, oil on canvas, 14" x 14"



*So Help You God*, oil on canvas, 36" x 48"



*Study of Resurrected  
Christ, 2020, oil on  
canvas, 14" x 14"*





Study of Caravaggio's  
*Doubting Thomas* (ca  
1600), oil on canvas,  
14" x 14"



Progress and Problem Solving/A Shift in Perspective and the Gordian Knot

Galen McDonald : Senior Art Thesis 2020

## Project Statement

The information age surrounds us. We put our faith in the hands of the digital search engine. Any question you have answered in less than a second. Millions and millions of answers, to every topic we have at a moment's notice. Before my time, my parents spoke of going to the basement of their local library and digging through tapes and microforms to complete their research papers. With the advent of the internet, access to new information has never been so easily accessible; and with that accessibility comes a reliance and trust of these illusionary facts and worlds.

The way we see the world is no longer through long walks and moments of ponderance at leaves and grass. Observing the world has been taken over by drones and data, more capable than us of reaching distant places and capturing wide swaths of land. Knowing where your private domicile is, is no longer private information. The whole world has access to seeing where you live in detailed 3D models. Due to the ever present surveillance of our surroundings and our eagerness to adopt new ways of modeling the Earth we no longer have a moment to ourselves that is not documented by some computer system. Our impressions of our surroundings are being based on the screens and limits of the technology used to display our environment.

# Goals for the Course

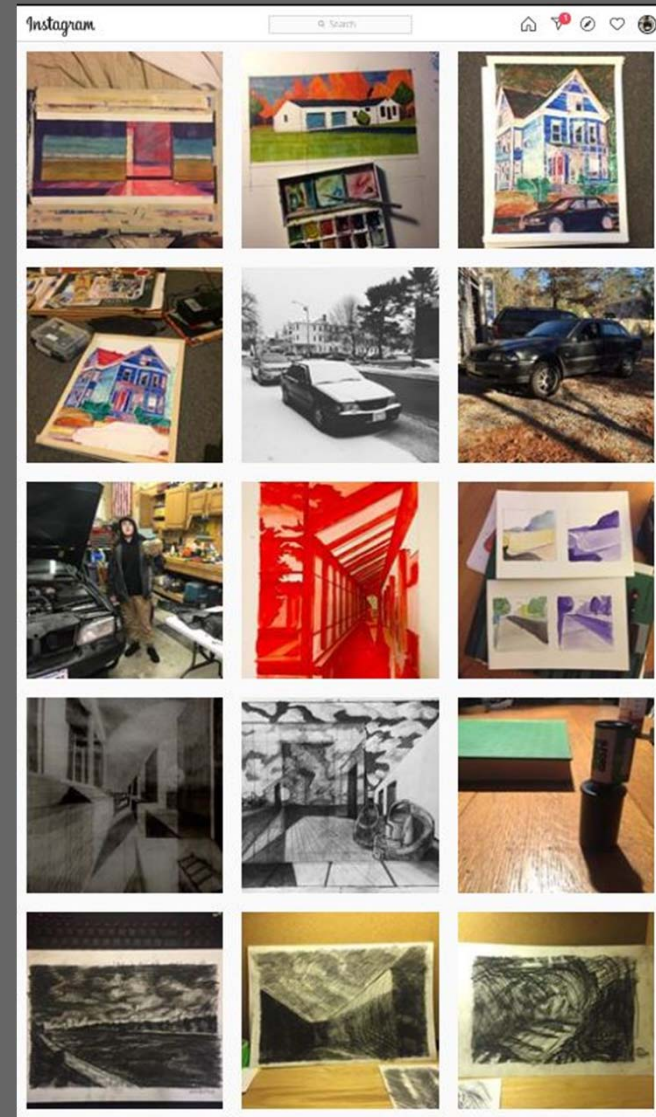
- Work Larger
- Experiment with new mediums
- Create my own mediums and supplies
- Work with what I already have
- Develop a process and routine
- Create a cohesive body of work
- Research past and current artists
- Think outside the box

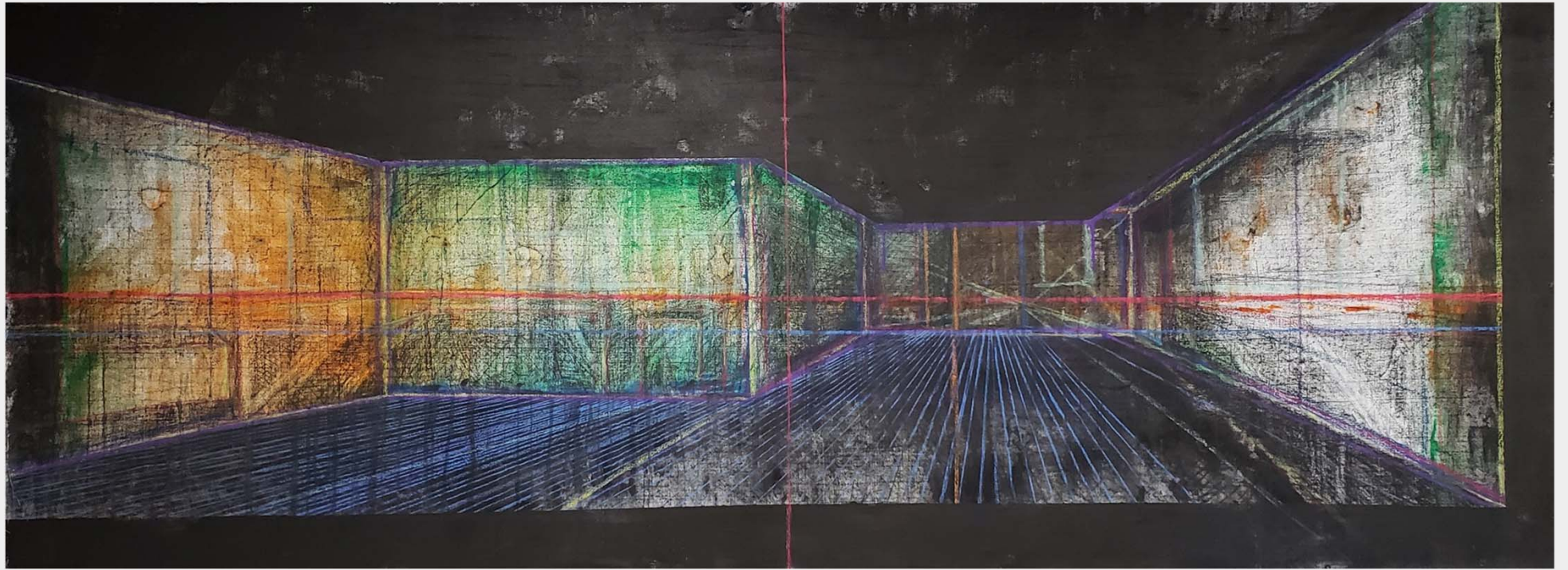




# Artist Background

- IT Background
- Photographer
- Painter
- DIY Mechanic
- Have taken classes in:
  - Sculpture
  - Printmaking
  - Painting, (oil, watercolor, guache, ink, acrylic)
  - Photography
  - Drawing
  - Book making
  - Ceramics
  - Graphic design
  - Geographic Info Sciences
  - Biology



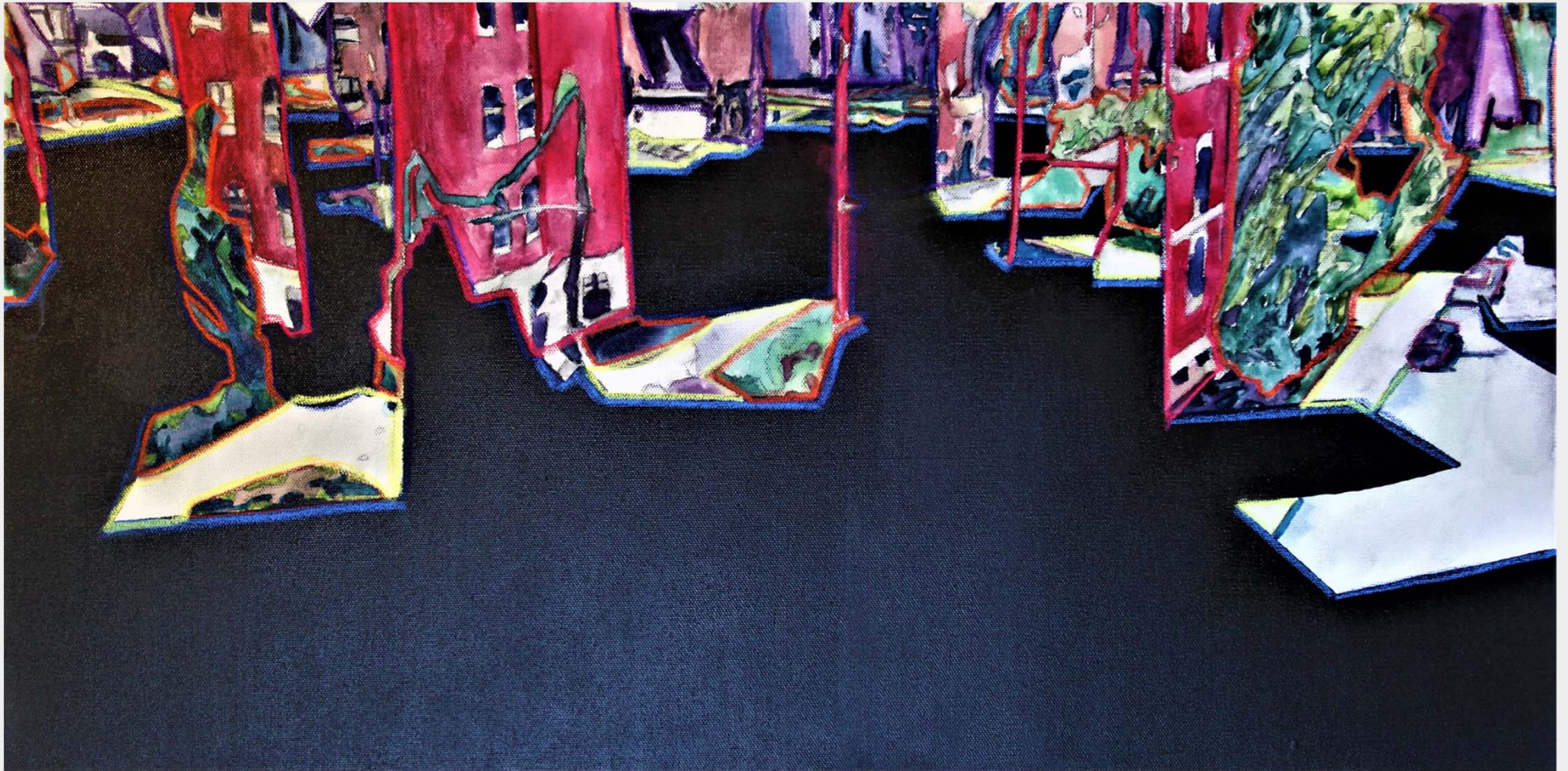


*Progress and Problem Solving, 2019,  
~6'x15'*



*Series 2, 2020*





*E3*, 2020, 16"x30"





*E2, 2020, 16"x30"*





*EI, 2020, 16"x30"*

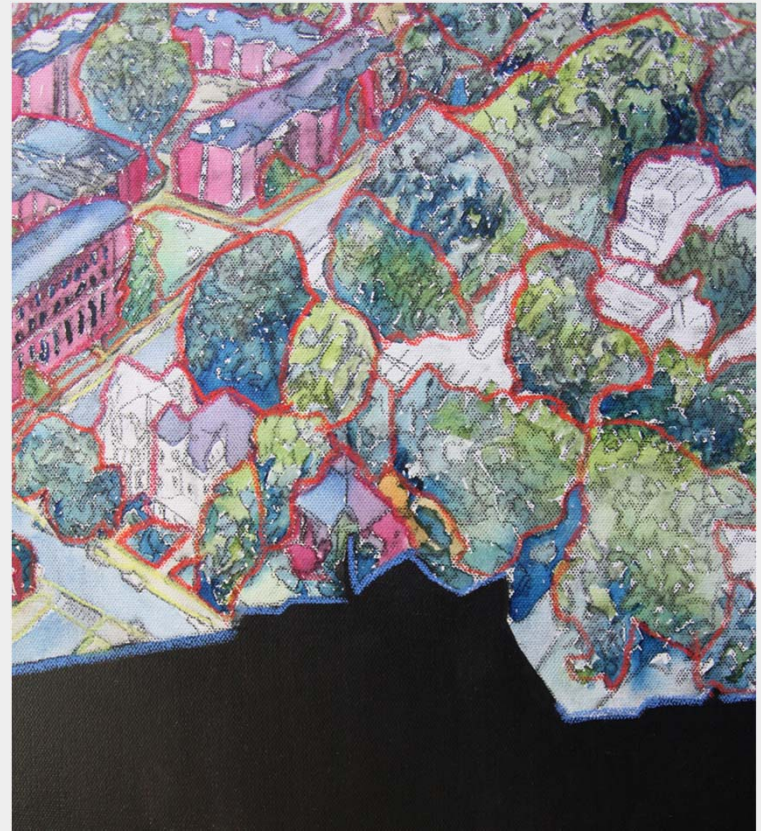
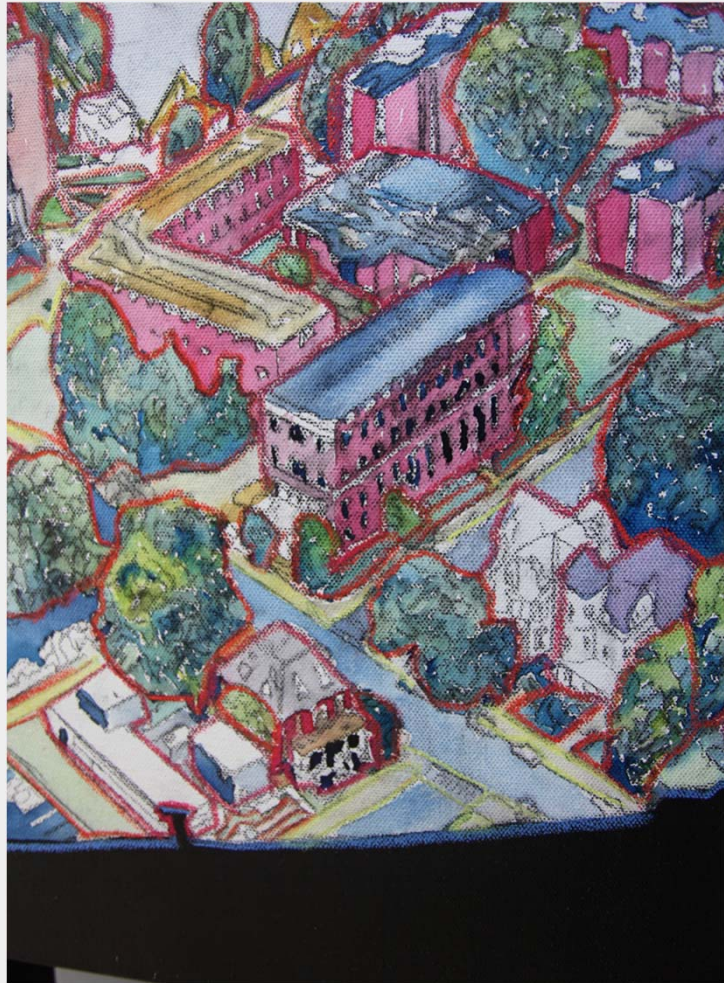


*Transition, 2020, 25"x25"*











# Studio Art Senior Thesis Project: All of Us

Xuemeng Zhang  
Clark University (Class 2020)  
Thesis Supervisor: Professor Elli Crocker

## Artist Statement

In the first half of 2020, the rapid spread of COVID-19 broke into everyone's life. When the first case of coronavirus occurred, it seemed so far away. Most could not imagine its impact until it got closer and closer to us physically. Emotionally, it was never far away. As a Chinese national studying abroad in the U.S., I witnessed how the crisis first impacted the lives of my families, friends, and citizens, then became a global crisis where all humans must stand together to fight.

During this difficult time, uncertainty raises fear, crisis reveals inequality, self-interest conceals empathy, and prejudice instigates hatred. As a lens-based artist, I felt obligated to record and lay bare these issues using the language of photography. Through the construction of small scenes and the play of shadow, I document stories of this unusual time and express my deepest feelings as a witness to history. Objects in the photographs are narrators, revealing the stories of us all.



*Unreachable*

Digital Inkjet Print  
19 x 13"  
2020





*She Dreamed A Dream*

Digital Inkjet Print  
19 x 13"  
2020



*Those Above, Those Below*

Digital Inkjet Print  
19 x 13"  
2020



*Light Lives, Heavy Gold*

Digital Inkjet Print  
19 x 13"  
2020



*Cannibalism*

Digital Inkjet Print  
19 x 13"  
2020





*Quarantine*

Digital Inkjet Print  
19 x 13"  
2020



*Chance*

Digital Inkjet Print  
19 x 13"  
2020



*Help!*

Digital Inkjet Print  
19 x 13"  
2020

<https://www.xuemengzhang.com>  
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